

Final Analysis

This is a tentative outline for this assignment.

What is the Final Analysis?

We've completed three different types of researched writing assignments so far: an interview, in which we constructed an understanding through another's memory of a particular subject; a report, in which we aimed to uncover the events or culture of a specific time or place as it affected the subject; and an artifact assignment, in which we employed all the senses and researched an item of importance to the subject in order to better understand this person, his or her time, and his or her culture.

For the final analysis, you will consider the larger implications of your research. In other words, what can you hypothesize, based on what you have learned, about how this person stands in the context of history and culture.

Brainstorming

You will begin the brainstorming by considering your journey:

- what observations have you made?
- what questions have been prompted by what you have learned?

You may begin to question your subject's motivations-- why did he or she do what he or she did? If you were to step back, however, and consider how a person's experiences can be of greater meaning than simply his or her own life, you may start to ask more significant questions: did this person achieve the American Dream? Did he or she reflect his or her culture or was this person an iconoclast?

The Proposal

Your next step will be to develop your proposal. Proposals specifically address the following:

1. Introductory statement, providing necessary or captivating background.
2. A clear, concise statement of your topic and your hypothesis (e.g., my claim that an individual may self-identify as anti-feminist yet her behaviors and actions would clearly be defined as feminist in nature)
3. An explanation of why we, as an audience, should care; what is the importance or relevance of this topic to others?
4. An overview of your research to date and its relevance to testing your hypothesis; anticipated research needs.
5. An overview of each section of your final analysis. Identify the topic of each section and compose a brief summary of what that section will entail.
6. Concluding statement that reiterates the importance of this project (consider how you would "pitch this" to an audience if you were asking for funding).

The Final Paper

2500 words, cited and developed. You are extending your understanding by reaching beyond the individual subject and looking to a more human understanding. You will be arguing (using evidence and logic) your claim-- for instance, whether your subject would have considered herself a feminist, or if his or her acts of heroism were motivated by the need to disprove those who judged the person based on race. Your claim must be arguable. You should use at minimum five outside sources (both primary and secondary). While you may cite your own research, you should include a spectrum of other sources as well that are up to standards of academic rigor. This means that sources like Wikipedia and Encarta are not suitable for this assignment. Peer-reviewed texts, academic journal articles, book-length studies, and research/studies from academic databases are suitable sources. Remember: beyond your aims and goals as a writer for this project, this analysis also needs to demonstrate that you are capable of composing an extended, research-based critical argument/analysis.